

**Environmental Assessment and
Draft CDCA Plan Amendment**

**Western Mojave Desert
Off Road Vehicle
Designation Project**

March 2003

United States
Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

March, 2002

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment for the Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project (Designation Project), and associated Environmental Assessment (EA). The draft plan amendment will update the 1980 CDCA Plan by incorporating into that plan a network of motorized vehicle access routes in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared these documents in fulfillment of its responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Bureau of Land Management's Off-Road Vehicle Regulations (43 CFR 8340).

The planning area includes about 3.2 million acres of public lands within the western Mojave Desert. The purpose of the Designation Project is to establish a network of motorized vehicle access routes on those lands and to incorporate the network into the CDCA Plan. The EA assesses the impacts of incorporating BLM's existing off road vehicle designations into the CDCA Plan, as well as the effects of adopting a revised network on 1.4 million acres of desert tortoise critical habitat and other sensitive areas.

Thirty (30) days are being provided for public review of the EA. Comments should be directed to:

Designation Project
Bureau of Land Management
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Final plan approval will be documented in a Record of Decision. A new environmental assessment is not anticipated. The Record of Decision will be made available to the public and mailed to all interested parties.

Sincerely,

Linda Hansen
California Desert District Manager

Environmental Assessment and Draft CDCA Plan Amendment

For The

Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

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MAPS

Maps of the route network can be found on the attached compact disk (CD Rom). Maps are full color, 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic quads; where applicable, the route number is attached for easy cross-referencing to the tables presented in Appendix C. Maps can be viewed using the Adobe reader on your home or local library computer. You will find that this will enable you to view any section of the route network at a variety of scales, and to print your own maps from the attached files. Please note that an index map is also provided. Subregion and motorized access zone boundaries are indicated on the maps.